

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT
Barcia Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2004

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**BARCIA TO CALL FOR AN END TO OUTSOURCING
LEGISLATION WOULD PROHIBIT STATE AGENCIES FROM GRANTING
CONTRACTS TO FIRMS THAT SHIP JOBS OVERSEAS**

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) announced today that he intends to introduce legislation that would require any contract for services entered into by a state agency specify that only citizens of the United States or individuals authorized to work in the United States may be employed under the contract or any subcontract. The legislation comes in response to recent reports that, under the Engler administration, the Michigan Family Independence Agency awarded contracts to handle customer service calls for its food stamp program to JP Morgan Electronic Financial Services (formerly Citicorp), which is in turn subcontracting the work to companies in India and Mexico.

“At a time when our state is hemorrhaging jobs and unemployment continues to rank above the national average, it is outrageous that public dollars are being used to subsidize workers in other countries,” said Barcia. “I don’t believe these practices save taxpayers one dime. The irony is that outsourcing these jobs is making it more difficult for people who are on public assistance to move from welfare to work.”

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The language of Senator Barcia's bill has yet to be finalized, although it is expected that the legislation will mirror efforts in other states like Washington and Indiana to require companies holding contracts with the state to document that all work provided under the contract or any subcontracts be performed by U.S citizens or those authorized under federal law to work in the United States. It is hoped that a bill will be ready for introduction by early spring.

"I'm confident that we can craft a bill that will have the support of Governor Granholm and members on both sides of the aisle," said Barcia. "Any long-term strategy for economic development needs to hold state agencies and companies accountable for keeping good paying jobs in Michigan, or at least the United States."

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31st Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

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